

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - LANDING FEE INCREASE AT FRG AIRPORTS

REF : BONN 11420

1. DEPT CONCURS IN EFFORT TO HAVE FRG NOISE CHARGE
TREATED IN SAME MANNER AS PASSENGER SERVICE CHARGE,
I.E., NOT APPLIED TO IGS SERVICE. THIS APPROACH SEEMS
IN LINE WITH ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 12 OF THE CONVENTION
(TIAS 3425) IN WHICH FRG OFFERS ASSURANCE THAT IGS WILL
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CONTINUE ON BASIS NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN PREVIOUSLY.

2. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL, AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT NOISE IS SENSITIVE ONE IN U.S. AS WELL AS BERLIN, AND WE WOULD NOT WISH TO OPPOSE REASONABLE NON-DISCRIMINATORY NOISE CHARGE IN BERLIN IF THAT WERE FORMALLY EXPRESSED DESIRE OF SENAT. HOWEVER, SENAT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ACTION WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN HIGHER AIRFARES, AND THAT NO CHANGE IS ANTICIPATED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE IN AMOUNT OF NOISE PRODUCED (SINCE AIRLINES FEEL THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO CHANGE EQUIPMENT). IN ADDITION TO INCREASING COSTS WITHOUT EFFECTING DESIRED RESULTS, AT LEAST IN SHORT RUN, CHARGE IN BERLIN WOULD WEAKEN POLITICAL/LEGAL ARGUMENT AGAINST FRG IMPOSITION OF NOISE CHARGE ON IGS SERVICES, WHICH WOULD MEAN FURTHER PRESSURE FOR HIGHER FARES. IF SENAT NEVERTHELESS DID TAKE SUCH POSITION, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST TO INSIST THAT HIGHER FARES RESULTING FROM NOISE CHARGE BE INSTITUTED AT SAME TIME AS CHARGE ITSELF.

3. IN LIGHT INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT OF 1974, WHICH REQUIRES DOT TO MONITOR USER CHARGES AROUND WORLD, REQUEST EMBASSY INVESTIGATE REASONS BEHIND BOTH 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN BASIC FRG LANDING FEE, AND INSTITUTION OF 5 PERCENT NOISE CHARGE. HOW ARE PROCEEDS FROM LATTER TO BE USED? HOW MUCH WILL BE COLLECTED FROM INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES? HOW MUCH DOES FRG EXPEND ON NOISE ABATEMENT MEASURES IN RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, PARTICULARLY FRANKFURT? WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S COMMENTS ON BERLIN ASPECTS.

4. AVIATION USER CHARGES AND NOISE CHARGES ARE A WORLDWIDE CONCERN WITH WIDESPREAD WASHINGTON INTEREST. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO KEEP DEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TO CONSULT WITH US BEFORE TAKING ACTION. KISSINGER

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